

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /102 W

----- 019270

R 240745Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6437

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 6476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLO, PFOR, US, XF, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH TV INTERVIEW WITH YASSIR ARAFAT

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1. SWEDISH TV (CHANNEL 1) CARRIED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

FROM BEIRUT WITH YASSIR ARAFAT ON EVENING NEWS DECEMBER 21.
ARAFAT DETECTED ONLY SLIGHT CHANGE IN US ATTITUDE
TOWARD PLO, SAW BIG SHIFT IN SWEDISH POLICY IN HIS
FAVOR, BUT PERCEIVED NO CHANGE IN ISRAELI
ATTITUDES. HE IMPLIED SINAI AGREEMENT IS INADEQUATE AND
CONSIDERED IT "VERY IMPORTANT" THAT PLO IS PARTICIPATING
IN JANUARY DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IN SECURITY
COUNCIL, A FACT HE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT PLO
IS "MAIN MEMBER" IN PROBLEM.

2. FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S RECORDED TO BEST
OF AN EMBOFF'S ABILITY. QUOTES ARE NOT COMPLETELY
VERBATIM. ARAFAT'S VOICE WAS SOMETIME UNCLEAR, HIS
ENGLISH LABORED.

Q. (INTERVIEWER: LARS-GUNNAR ERLANDSON) DO
YOU THINK ISRAEL WILL PLAY A ROLE IN JANUARY
MEETING OF SECURITY COUNCIL?

A. WE ARE NOT LOOKING AT ISRAEL TAKING PART OR NOT.
THE MAIN THING--THE VERY IMPORTANT THING FROM
OUR POINT OF VIEW --IS THAT WE, THE PLO, ARE
PARTICIPATING. THIS MEANS THAT WE
ARE THE MAIN MEMBER OF THIS PROBLEM.

Q. HAVE YOU NOTICED A MAJOR SHIFT IN US POLICY TOWARD YOU?

A. DEFINITELY, WE ARE FEELING A LIGHT SHIFT
IN AMERICAN POLICY...NOT OBVIOUS, NOT CLEAR--A SLIGHT MOTION,
NOTHING MORE-- ESPECIALLY THROUGH SAU DERS'
DECLARATION.

Q. IS THERE A SHIFT IN ISRAELI POLICY?

A. THE ISRAELIS ARE STILL LOOKING FOR THEIR EMPIRE --
STILL IMAGINING AND DREAMING, STILL
WORKING AND FIGHTING FOR IT.

Q. SPECULATIONS ARE THAT THERE WILL BE A
PALESTINIAN STATE IN 1976.

A. WE HOPE SO ... WE CAN'T SAY EXACTLY WHAT
WE WILL DO; WE PREFER TO LET OUR ACTIONS SPEAK.

Q. DO YOU THINK THE ATTITUDE OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT
IS CHANGING? YOU SENT A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE TO
THE PRIME MINISTER AFTER THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE.

A. DEFINITELY. WE FEEL A BIG CHANGE -- NOT ONLY THE
GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO THE PEOPLE... THERE IS, FOR
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EXAMPLE, A PALESTINE-SWEDISH COMMITTEE...
WE ALL KNOW HOW MUCH YOU DID FOR THE
VIETNAMESE IN THEIR STRUGGLE. WE ARE
SURE YOU WILL DO THE SAME FOR OUR
JUST CAUSE.

Q. YOU AS WELL AS THE SYRIANS HAVE CRITICIZED
THE SINAI AGREEMENT. DOES IT HAVE A NEGATIVE
IMPACT ON YOUR AIMS?

A. THE SINAI AGREEMENT IS A POLITICAL AGREEMENT. IT'S ENOUGH
FOR YOU TO HAVE AN IDEA THAT ONLY 13 PERCENT OF THE SINAI
HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE JEWS, THE ISRAELIS.
THE EGYPTIANS ARE (GIVING UP?) ONLY
SEVEN PERCENT. HOW MUCH WILL THEY HAVE TO PAY
FOR THE REST OF SINAI? I AM ASKING. SO, WE ARE AGAINST
THE SINAI AGREEMENT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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